

PVHA.US Posting from 2015

Are you prepared for the Megquake?

On Thursday, October 1 at, 8:00pm, OPB will present an hour long feature "UNPREPARED" that probes into the realities of Oregon's readiness for major quake, i.e., MEGAQUAKE!! They will explore how we should prepare for such an event. An authority on TV said that, in the event of the: Cascadia fault megquake, everything west of the I 5 highway would be toast. That certainly would include Pioneer Village. It might be worth paying attention to this broadcast!

Defensible Space Really Pays Off

Here is a photo of a home that survived being in the direct path of the recent Cove Fire in central Oregon. [photo by Ben Duda, ODF Sisters.]

The homeowners had diligently worked on defensible space actions over an extended period of time – actions that included installing a metal roof, keeping gutters free of debris, surrounding the grounds of the home outward from the house for several feet with gravel surface material, adding cinder blocks between the deck surface and the ground (to prevent embers from getting under the deck area) and, just within the past month, re-surfacing that wooden deck with brick. As the fire swept up the downhill side of where the home was situated – through extremely dry and flammable fuels, and pushed by winds including 40 mph gusts – items destroyed near and on the home's deck within the fire's path indicate a sustained period of 200+ degrees of heat. However, the home, itself, stood, with minimal damage.

ODF encourages all Oregonians living in the wildland urban interface to find out more about living with wildfire and defensible space actions they can take to help protect their homes. Learn more at [Keep Oregon Green](#), and other organizations, such as [Firewise](#). ODF encourages all Oregonians living in the wildland urban interface to find out more about living with wildfire and defensible space actions they can take to help protect their homes. Learn more at [Keep Oregon Green](#), and other organizations, such as [Firewise](#).

Updated Electrical Connection

CPI recently replaced the conduit and cable for the wires entering Pioneer Village. This was from the school bus turnaround to the junction of Creasy Creek and Barlow Road. The old

wire/conduit was old and apparently reaching the end of its life, so was replaced as part of CPI's routine maintenance. There was no upgrade in regard to capacity as e apparently have all that is needed.

Firewise Virtual Workshop

To our Firewise Community:

Recently, we announced on the [FireBreak blog](#) that Firewise is hosting a virtual workshop on **Thursday, August 6th** that will explore “Wildland *Urban Legends*.” The virtual workshop will be **at 10 am PDT** and run for an hour.

Click here to [Register now](#) to join us and please share the registration link with your community members. The virtual workshop is a learning opportunity for all. I hope you can participate with us and please contact us if you have any questions.

Thanks for all you do to make your community safer from wildfire.

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Learn more about the role you play in the [Firewise Communities/USA®](#) Program and [Fire Adapted Communities](#).

Annual Assessment

Please remember to pay your PVHA annual assessment. Payments were due at the end of June. Your assessment pays for road maintenance and other conveniences and necessities of living in Pioneer Village. Thank you for your prompt payments.

Reflective Posts Alongside Roads

All of the stakes have now been placed where reflective posts will be located. The orange dashed lines on the road show where the Pioneer Telephone line is located, and the red dashed lines are the CPI power lines. These will help the fire department know where to put the

reflective posts without interfering with the underground cables. They will place the posts during the next week or two, as they have time from their other duties. Thank you for your patience with this process.

Dust Control

Thanks to the Road Committee for arranging this year's dust control with the county. On Wednesday, June 24, 2015 the county Public Works put down a sticky mixture of 60% lignin/40% water. The county states that "Durability is subject to weather and/or traffic volume..." Driving fast wears the lignin layer off more quickly, so please be respectful and drive slowly through the Village.

Here's some more information about the lignin:

Lignosulfonates are derived from lignin, a naturally occurring polymer found in wood that acts like glue holding the cellulose fibers of pulp together. They work on the roads by binding the road surface particles together. Water evaporates from the lignosulfonate as it dries, and the dust particles are trapped by the high-viscosity, naturally sticky material. In addition, over time some of the lignosulfonates become completely insoluble due to solar heating. Lignosulfonates are environmentally safe, non-corrosive, and non-toxic.

Roadside Flags

Stakes with pink flagging tape have been placed in various spots along the roads to indicate where tall reflective stakes will be placed. The intent is to reduce the potential for people (especially guests and visitors) to run off the road into ravines, culverts, drop-offs, etc. during times of dense fog, smoke, or other visual impairments.

Cost of purchase is being split with the county, under our Firewise program.

Installation of the stakes will be done by the fire department, once placement has been cleared with E.D. Hughes (road / brush maintenance) and underground cables (phone and power).

2015 - Firewise Day Saturday June 13th

Benton County, Oregon Dept. of Forestry, and Starker Forests were on site to answer questions about how to be fire-safe. An introductory tour of the new upper evacuation route was provided. The road is graveled and cleared, and is passable for passenger cars as well as SUVs and pick-ups. It exits at the top end of Evergreen Road, and it's still a long drive down to Fern Road! The gate will remain locked except during an emergency, but anyone with a Starker Forest pass is welcome to walk the route.

Coffee and donuts were provided, and a nice time was had by all on a beautiful Saturday morning. See photo below. Click [HERE](#) for more photos.

Mowing

Thanks!! to Simon Babcock for mowing the field and reducing the fuel load. Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) is paying the rental fee for the tractor/mower as part of their fire threat reduction program.

Thanks!! to Carol Gorbacheck for whacking the weeds by the mailboxes and the school bus turn-around. Nice to have the entry to the Village spruced up!